

What is claimed is:-

1. A method of generating a received signal quality signal in a communication system, the method comprising:
5 receiving a signal from a physical channel;
extracting a transport channel format combination indicator from the received signal;
processing one or more transport channel signals, contained in the received signal, in accordance with the extracted transport channel format combination
10 indicator; said processing including at least channel decoding; and
generating a received signal quality signal in dependence on the quality of the or each transport channel signal prior to channel decoding.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the or each transport channel signal
15 comprises a sequence of data blocks.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the quality of the or each transport channel signal is represented by a block bit error rate determined prior to channel decoding.
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4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the determined bit error rate of a transport channel signal is averaged over period comprising a plurality of data blocks.
- 25 5. A method according to claim 4, wherein, in the case of a plurality of transport channel signals, the bit error rates of each transport channel signal are averaged over the same period.
6. A method according to claim 5, including calculating an average bit error rate
30 across the transport channel signals, wherein the average is weighted in dependence on the transport formats used for said transport signals.

7. A method according to claim 1, including the step of transmitting the received signal quality signal in a control channel.
8. A communication device comprising:
5 a receiver for receiving a signal from a physical channel;
processing means configured for:
extracting a transport channel format combination indicator from the received signal;
processing one or more transport channel signals, contained in the
10 received signal, in accordance with the extracted transport channel format combination indicator; said processing including at least channel decoding; and
generating a received signal quality signal in dependence on the quality of the or each transport channel signal prior to channel decoding.
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9. A device according to claim 7, wherein the processing means is configured for processing transport channel signals comprising sequences of data blocks.
10. A device according to claim 9, wherein the quality of the or each transport
20 channel signal is represented by a block bit error rate determined prior to channel decoding.
11. A device according to claim 10, wherein the processing means is configured such that the determined bit error rate of a transport channel signal is averaged over
25 period comprising a plurality of data blocks.
12. A device according to claim 11, wherein the processing means is configured such that, in the case of there being a plurality of transport channel signals, the bit error rates of each transport channel signal are averaged over the same period.
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13. A device according to claim 12, wherein the processing means is configured for calculating an average bit error rate across the transport channel signals, such

that the average is weighted in dependence on the transport formats used for said transport signals.

14. A device according to claim 8, including a transmitter, wherein the
5 processing means is configured for causing the transmitter to transmit the received signal quality signal in a control channel of a communication network.

15. A method of generating a received signal quality signal in a communication system, the method comprising:
10 receiving a signal from a physical channel, the signal comprising one or more transport channels;
extracting a transport channel format combination indicator from the received signal and determining the bit error rate therefore; and
generating a received signal quality signal in dependence on the bit error rate
15 of the extracted transport channel format combination indicator.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the determined bit error rates of a plurality of transport channel format combination indicator instances are averaged.

20 17. A method according to claim 15, including the step of transmitting the received signal quality signal in a control channel.

18. A communication device comprising:
a receiver for receiving a signal from a physical channel, the signal
25 comprising one or more transport channels; and
processing means configured for:
extracting a transport channel format combination indicator from a received signal and determining the bit error rate therefore; and
generating a received signal quality signal in dependence on the bit
30 error rate of the extracted transport channel format combination indicator.

19. A device according to claim 18, wherein the processing means is configured for averaging the determined bit error rates of a plurality of transport channel format combination indicator instances.
- 5 20. A device according to claim 18, including a transmitter, wherein the processing means is configured for causing the transmitter to transmit the received signal quality signal in a control channel of a communication network.
21. A method of generating a received signal quality signal in a communication
10 system, the method comprising:
receiving a signal from a physical channel, the signal comprising a plurality of bursts each including a training sequence; and
generating a received signal quality signal in dependence on the bit error rate of the training sequence of a received burst.
- 15 22. A method according to claim 21, wherein the determined bit error rates of the training sequences of a plurality of bursts are averaged.
23. A method according to claim 21, wherein the bit error rate of a training
20 sequence is produced by comparing a received training sequence with a reference training sequence.
24. A method according to claim 21, including the step of transmitting the received signal quality signal in a control channel.
- 25 25. A communication device comprising:
a receiver for receiving a signal from a physical channel, the signal comprising a plurality of bursts each including a training sequence; and
processing means configured for generating a received signal quality signal in
30 dependence on the bit error rate of the training sequence of a received burst.

26. A device according to claim 25, wherein the processing means is configured for averaging the determined bit error rates of the training sequences of a plurality of bursts.

5 27. A device according to claim 25, wherein the processing means is configured such that the bit error rate of a training sequence is produced by comparing a received training sequence with a reference training sequence.

10 28. A device according to claim 25, including a transmitter, wherein the processing means is configured for causing the transmitter to transmit the received signal quality signal in a control channel of a communication network.